Baku by BIKKE

Volume 1 ; Chapter 2

Scanner: Enigma

Translator: Aster

Proofreader: Chrys

Editor: Enigma

Qc. Checker: Mdunk0l0

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BAKU volume3 *presented by BIKKE*

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Yumebito are servants created by the Baku. Neon and Selene are Rin's Yumebito, while Rin was the late Kisenos' Yumebito prior to becoming a Baku in his master's stead.

A long time ago, Kisenos encountered a powerful female Muma, and the relationship between the Baku and the Muma was changed forever—

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Story

The Baku are beings who feeds on the nightmares of humans. The Muma create nightmares and weaken human beings in order to devour their souls. There is a long-standing enmity between the two clans.

Rin, one of the Elite Three of the Baku clan, receives a request from a woman named Elza, who wishes him to exterminate the nightmares of some of her clients. The Muma that Rin and his companions encounter as a result of this request had disregarded his duties, resulting in his execution at the hands of the Muma Chancellor, to which Rin bears witness. The Chancellor taunts Rin's lack of awareness, claiming that Kisenos had also faced a similar execution.

Rin demands the truth of his fellow members of the Elite Three—

Character

LANTANUM

The oldest membe of the Elite Three He has no Yumeblto

SELENE

Kin's Yumebito", and Neon's senior Very calm and talented

RIN

Has the appearance of a human boy, but in actuality is a Baku, and hundreds of years old Selene and Neon's master, and a member of the Elite Three

ARSENICA

The new Muma Chancellor Is especially antagonist towards Rin, and constantly plots against him.

NEON

Was saved from death through Rin's intervention, on the condition that he become Rin's second "Yumebito"... Easily falls in love with any pretty girl he meets

HE'S STILL UPSTAIRS, TALKING TO RODELIS AND LANTANUM.
WHERE'S RIN?
ALL NIGHT?!
WE'VE GOT A REQUEST, YOU KNOW!
I WONDER WHETHER HE WILL ACCEPT IT. HE'S HAD A PRETTY ROUGH NIGHT.
...
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN RUDE AND SARCASTIC,
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM GET MAD LIKE THAT BEFORE!
TRUE. EVERYONE ELSE IS TIRED AS WELL. MAYBE IT CAN WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW...

..I WAS REALLY SURPRISED.
ME, TOO.

REAL
7 CROSSING

RIN!
clack
YOU'RE AWAKE?
HUH?
WELL... UM... ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
rustle
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
OH, YEAH! WE GOT A REQUEST!

GO WITH SELENE. IF YOU TWO CAN HANDLE IT, THEN GO AHEAD AND EXTERMINATE IT.
IF IT'S A MUMA, THEN I'LL GO TOMORROW. DON'T TRY TO DEAL WITH ONE ON YOUR OWN
OKAY.
ALRIGHT.
HEY, NEON, SELENE,
...THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU, AFTER YOU GET BACK.

THIS IS THE CLIENT'S HOUSE.
KNOCK KNOCK
PLEASE COME IN. THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED.
CREAK
HELLO. WE RECEIVED YOUR REQUEST TO EXTERMINATE A NIGHTMARE.
AH, SO IT'S YOU!
THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY JUST TO LISTEN TO AN OLD MAN BABBLE ABOUT HIS NIGHT-MARES!
MY NAME IS LUTHER. PLEASED TO MEET YOU
I'M NEON, AND THIS IS SELENE.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, SIR

OH, A CROSSWORD?
JUST TRYING TO PASS THE TIME.
YOU'RE ALMOST DONE/ THE HORIZONTAL KEY...
HAS A SINGLE FACE THAT BROADENS AND THINS EVERY MONTH.
IT'S "MOON"!
THE EARTH'S ROTATION AND THE MOON'S REVOLUTION ARE IN THE SAME DIRECTIONS SO WE ONLY EVER SEE ONE SIDE OF THE MOON.
OH, I SEE. THEN I'M ALMOST DONE.
IT REMINDS ME OF BACK IN THE DAY, WHEN I USED TO SOLVE THEM WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS.
SORRY, WE CAME HERE TO LISTEN TO YOU BUT WE ENDED UP WORKING ON A CROSSWORD ..

THERE WAS A WAR HERE..
I WAS 20 YEARS OLD
HOW NOSTALGIC! ARE YOU GOOD AT PUZZLES?
HUH?
IT ALL HAPPENED ABOUT 50 YEARS AGO— BEFORE YOU YOUNGSTERS WERE EVEN BORN.
CAN I TELL YOU ABOUT MY NIGHT-MARE?
ACTUALLY, WE WERE BORN LONG BEFORE THAT...
LUTHER!

I DID THE HORIZONTAL ONES LIKE YOU ASKED ME TO!
HEY, IVY! YOU'RE LOOKING BETTER TODAY! HERE'S THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE I PROMISED YOU!
DID YOU FINISH UP?
GRABI
THANKS! THAT'S GREAT!
I FINISHED MY BIT LAST NIGHT, TOO! THE VERTICAL ONES.
CROSS WORD
ONCE WE CROSS-CHECK, IT'LL BE DONE!
HAHA! I'VE BEEN CAUGHT!
BUT IT TOOK YOU THE WHOLE NIGHT, DIDN'T IT? I CAN SEE THE BAGS UNDER YOUR EYES!

...
I'M AFRAID OF GOING TO SLEEP BECAUSE... I HAVE BAD DREAMS.
IF I'M WORKING ON PUZZLES, I WON'T FALL ASLEEP...
GRIP
...YOU WERE UP ALL NIGHT, AGAIN?
AND THE NIGHT FLIES BY.
WHERE'S RICHARD?
BUT KIDS NEED TO SLEEP!
HE JUST WENT TO BED. WE TAKE TURNS SO WE CAN WAKE EACH OTHER UP.
LUTHER, WE'RE GOING TO BE... HOSPITALIZED TOMORROW.
HOSPITALIZED?!
OH, BUT THEY SAID WE'LL GET BETTER SOON!
IT'S THE HOSPITAL ON THE MAIN STREET. WE'LL BE AWFULLY BORED, SO MAKE SURE TO COME VISIT US!

rustle
HE HASN'T WON A SINGLE ONE YET ...
HERE— THE GRAND PRIZE IS A TRIP!
IF I WIN, I'LL GO WITH MY BROTHER. AND I'LL TAKE YOU, TOO!
SO I'LL HANDLE THE HORIZONTAL ONES NEXT TIME?
GREAT! AND THE NEXT ONE?
THE PRIZE FOR THIS TIME'S CROSSWORD IS A BIKE, SO I'M GOING TO SEND IT IN.
THE TWO OF THEM SUDDENLY FELL ILL AND WERE FORCED TO STAY HOME, BUT I VISITED OCCASIONALLY TO KEEP THEM COMPANY AND DO CROSSWORD PUZZLES.
IVY AND RICHARD WERE TWINS WHO LIVED IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD. I TREATED THEM LIKE THEY WERE MY YOUNGER BROTHERS.
OKAY, THEN!
UNTIL NEXT TIME!

THE PUBLIC WAS BUZZING WITH NEWS OF THE POSSIBLE WAR. AS OUR SMALL ISLAND NATION BECAME INCREASINGLY ISOLATED, IT WAS HONESTLY QUITE A RELIEF TO HAVE THE TWINS TO TALK TO AND SPEND TIME WITH.
A WAR?! BUT.. WHY?
IT'S ALL THE FAULT OF THAT DERANGED KING!
I HAVE FAMILY IN THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY AND SOME OF MY CUSTOMERS ARE FROM THERE AS WELL..
ゴォォォォ
IT'S AN AIR RAID!

AIR RAID!
BAM BAM
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAIN STREET?!
IDIOT! IT'S BEEN ENGULFED BY FLAMES! IT'LL PROBABLY SPREAD ALL THE WAY HERE, SO GET OUT!
YOU, TOO! HURRY UP!
ゴオオオ
THE MAIN STREET'S ON FIRE!
RUN TO THE RIVER!
DASH
IT'S THE HOSPITAL ON THE MAIN STREET.
THE MAIN STREET...?!

NO, WAIT!
IVY! RICHARD!
GRIT

THIS IS... SO TERRIBLE/ IT WAS A HOSPITAL..
.. SO THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO HAD NO WAY OF MAKING IT OUT ON THEIR OWN
Whoosh
IVY,
RICHARD...

THE CLEANUP TOOK A LONG TIME, AND MANY PATIENTS WERE LEFT UNACCOUNTED FOR.
IVY AND RICHARD WERE AMONG THOSE MISSING, BUT ..
I SEE...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT— IT MIGHT'VE BEEN WHAT YOU CALL A MUMA THAT WEAKENED THEM SO MUCH.
AFTER LISTENING TO YOU TWO, I FEEL THAT IT WAS DEFINITELY A POSSIBILITY.
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN...

THEY REFUSE TO MOVE UNTIL THEY FINISH THE PUZZLE, AND THEY KEEP ASKING ME FOR KEYS...
I KNOW THE ANSWERS, BUT MY VOICE FAILS ME WHENEVER I TRY TO SPEAK!
RECENTLY, I'VE STARTED SEEING IVY AND RICHARD IN MY DREAMS
THEY'RE TOO ENGROSSED IN THE CROSSWORD TO NOTICE THE FIRE!
THAT'S AROUND WHEN I BECAME RIN'S YUMEBITO. I REMEMBER SEEING MOUNTAINS OF RUBBLE...
SOAKED IN SWEAT.
I WAKE UP EVERY NIGHT...
ERASE...
DO YOU WANT US TO ERASE THAT NIGHTMARE?

THIS DREAM IS SO DARK...
WHENEVER I SPOKE WITH THEM, THEY'D ALWAYS SMILE AT ME.
BUT I WANT TO SEE THEIR SMILES, JUST ONE MORE TIME, BEFORE THEY'RE GONE FOREVER.
YES IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, I WANT YOU TO MAKE IT SO I'LL NEVER HAVE TO SEE THAT AGAIN.

LUTHER!
WHAT'S THAT?

LUTHER, WHAT ARE YOU...?
THOSE KIDS... THEY'RE TRAPPED IN THERE!
THE FIRE'S GETTING CLOSER! WE NEED TO HURRY!
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
ボッ
DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A MUMA, SO I CAN PROBABLY GET RID OF IT RIGHT NOW...
BUT HE SAID HE WANTED TO SEE THEM SMILE...
I NEED TO HELP HIM TEAR THROUGH THESE VINES?!
IT'S A GOOD THING I'M TAKING CARE OF THIS! RIN WOULD'VE JUST FINISHED IT ALREADY!
ANSWER
ANSWER IT...
IT...

HUH? A PUZZLE?!
I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT: IT'S FIVE LETTERS.
A SMALL PAINTING IN A SMALL FRAME, WITH A STICKY BACK WHAT IS IT?
ANSWER THE HORIZONTAL KEY!
WHO'S TALKING...?
SMALL, STICKY...
A... STAMP?
CORRECT!
relieved

WHOA, THE VINES DIS-APPEARED!
IT'S LIKE A GAME...
LUTHER!
IF WE SOLVE THE CROSSWORD, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO REACH THEM!
ANSWER THIS... HORIZONTAL, FIVE LETTERS
A LOT IN THE WINTER, BUT LESS IN THE SUMMER WHAT'S INVERSELY PROPORTIONAL TO THE AMOUNT OF SUNLIGHT?
HERE'S A HINT: THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE!
THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE... INVERSELY PROPOR-TIONAL... NIGHT.
NIGHT!
CORRECT AGAIN!
THE NEXT ONE... IS A PROVERB
NO USE WORRYING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. WHAT WAS SPILLED?

HEY, AREN'T SQUARES USED...?
AND THE WORD IS...
A NUMBER YOU CAN WRITE IN A CONTINUOUS LINE AND WHICH LOOKS LIKE TWO CIRCLES STACKED ON UPON THE OTHER.
VAM-PIRE!
THEY DRAW OUT BLOOD, BUT THEY'RE NOT NEEDLES. THEY LIKE THE NIGHT BETTER THAN THE DAY.
THE MOTHER IS AS WHITE AS SNOW, BUT THE CHILD IS SICKLY.
PROVERB... MILK! IT'S MILK!

I THOUGHT
IT WAS GOING TO GO ON ALL NIGHT AGAIN
SOMETHING THIS EASY WOULDN'T TAKE THAT LONG!
TWINS...

IVY.
RICHARD.
EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE NOW, I SUPPOSE.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THOSE TWINS' FACES BEFORE, SOMEWHERE ..

VAMPIRE
LIFT
STAND

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I'M GLAD I SAW THEM SMILE, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS JUST IN A DREAM

I HOPE YOU'LL LET US KNOW IF SOMETHING COMES UP
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY I STARTED DREAMING ABOUT THEM,
BUT MAYBE IT'S SOME KIND OF SIGN...
I WAS WATCHING YOU, NEON. YOU WERE REALLY GOOD AT THOSE PUZZLES!
HEH HEH! LOOK, I'VE GOT A BOOK OF THEM!
THERE ARE A LOT OF KEYS... AND THE CLUES ARE CONFUSING!
BUT IF YOU SEND THESE IN, YOU'LL GET A CHANCE TO WIN A TRIP!

THAT WOULD BE NICE.
WOULDN'T IT BE NICE TO GO ON A HOLIDAY, JUST THE THREE OF US?
CROSS WORD

WELCOME BACK, ARSENICA.

YOU KILLED A MUMA, DIDN'T YOU?
YES, SHION. I'M BACK.
YOU KNEW?
OF COURSE.
I'M THE ONE WHO TURNED HIM INTO A MUMA, YOU SEE.
I HESITATED BECAUSE I KNEW YOU WERE HIS CREATOR,
BUT I HAD TO DO IT IN THE END. HE WAS OUT OF CONTROL.

A CROSSWORD PUZZLE. HOW NOSTALGIC.
YOU OUGHT TO TRY MORE DIFFICULT ONES THAN THAT!
WHAT'S THE PRIZE?
JUST KILLING TIME WHILE WAITING FOR YOU
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I SEE...
A TRIP. THEY HAD A CONTEST LIKE THAT. A LONG TIME AGO,
BACK WHEN WE WERE HUMAN WE WANTED TO SUBMIT OURS, BUT WE DIDN'T GET THE CHANCE.
YOU WERE BETTER AT THEM THAN I WAS.
HELP ME OUT HERE, IVY?

I CAST THAT NAME AWAY A LONG TIME AGO, RICHARD.

ARSENICA, ARE YOU TIRED?
A LITTLE